petitions and contempt of courts in the Supreme Court and various courts of the country, court-wise and category-wise,

(b) the reasons for delay in disposal of these cases; and

(c) the steps considered to be taken by Government for early disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) This Department does not maintain such information, court and category-wise, in respect of the various courts of the country. The information with regard to cases pending in the Supreme Court, however, has been sought from the Hon'ble apex court and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course of time.

(b) and (c) Disposal of cases and time taken in such disposal are matters that fall exclusively in the domain of the judiciary. There are a number of reasons for delay in disposal of the cases that include inadequacy of judge strength, delays in filling up of vacancies, population and litigation explosion, delays attributable to memebrs of the Bar and the like. With a view to reducing pendency in the courts, Government has taken steps to increase the judge strength from time to time and has extended the term of central assistance to Fast Track Courts for a period of five years beyond 31.3.2005 *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010. Other measures like grouping of cases involving common question of law and application of Information and Communication Technology in the courts have also been taken. Tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, etc. have been set up to dispose of cases in different areas. Government has encouraged alternative modes of disposal, which include mediation, negotiation and arbitration.

Delimitation of constituencies

4189. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a commission for delimitation of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies has been constituted by Government;

(b) if so, when its term will expire;

(c) whether the commission has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when final report is likely to be submitted; and

(e) whether Government have decided the cut-off date for implementing the report of Delimitation Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delimitation Commission has been constituted under the provisions of section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 for delimitation of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The present term of the Delimitation Commission will expire on 31st July, 2007. The proposal to extend the term of the Commission further is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Delimitation Commission has notified the final orders in respect of 18 States/Union territories so far.

(e) The Government's view is to give effect to the delimitation orders issued by the Delimitation Commission after the delimitation exercise in respect of all the States/Union territories has been completed.

Appeals filed by Government, State Governments and PSUs

4190. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the problem of automatic appeals by State Governments, PSUs and Central Government in High Courts and Supreme Court was discussed;

(c) whether it is a fact that part of the backlog in courts relates to easy and automatic appeal by Government; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for retractive action to advise State Governments and PSUs and organs of Central Government to withdraw appeals in trivial issues?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.